

Submitter: Linda Middlekauff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB3435

HB 3435 raises all kinds of red flags for me. Both federal and state governments have been seeking more and more control over our children for decades, and this is just one more step. I think that the rationale behind this is that parents are unable to know &/or to meet the best interests of their children, and that the state knows what's best for children.

I've spent almost my entire professional life in Maternal-Child Nursing with the majority of those years as a nurse/childbirth educator and have taught and mentored parents as young as 14 and as old as 45 for almost 50 years. In addition, I've volunteered in ministries which reach out to some of the most disadvantaged mothers.

In the early years of my career, I worked in the inner city of Chicago with very young, new mothers who were socially and educationally disadvantaged.

Unless there's been a serious substance use disorder or mental illness, I can't think of one mother with whom I've worked to have been neglectful, or uninterested in promoting their child's emotional and educational development, etc.

Make no mistake, this is NOT a name change only; it's an entire change of focus and may be a real infringement on the ability of parents to direct the upbringing of their very young children.

Because this is an emergency bill, it will be implemented on passage. Why the hurry? More deliberation and testimony, not less is what leads to better results.

Please vote NO on HB 3435.

Thank you,  
Linda Middlekauff  
Roseburg, OR